

August 30, 1961

*To Mrs Lincoln  
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Dear General Clay:

I hereby appoint you as my Personal Representative, with the rank of Ambassador, on temporary assignment in Berlin. My hope is that you will be able to take up your duties by September 15th, and serve through the immediate period of crisis which appears to be ahead of us as a result of Soviet actions.

In your capacity as my Personal Representative in Berlin, you will be the senior American official in that city, and you will communicate directly with the Secretary of State and me as Ambassadors ordinarily do. Although the regular military chain of command and the political responsibilities of Ambassador Dowling as Chief of Mission for Berlin will not be changed by this appointment, I expect to authorize you to carry out specific tasks and exercise authority in such cases as I may indicate. I am instructing all concerned to keep you informed of all developments and to seek your advice as that of the senior American in Berlin, but I wish you to be free of routine responsibility and to act as my personal advisor from the vantage point of Berlin. It is my expectation that you may have particularly important work to do in interpreting our policies to the leaders of West Berlin and their attitudes to us. I shall also expect to have your prompt counsel in the consideration of anticipatory actions and effective responses to any sudden Soviet or Communist moves in the Berlin area.

Your willingness to undertake this arduous duty in a difficult and demanding hour is a great encouragement to me.

Sincerely,

General Lucius Clay, USA (Ret.)

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